Immunization Programme for children

1963. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 51 per cent of the child population are not fully immunized and 74 per cent suffer from anaemia;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to address this problem;

(c) whether State Governments have any special plan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the same for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) As per UNICEF evaluation, the percentage of fully-immunized children in the country against the six vaccine-preventable diseases namely childhood tuberculosis, diptheria, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles and neo-natal tetanus in 2000-2001 was 53.6%. As per the National Family Health Survey-2 (1998-99), 74.3 per cent of the children (6-34 months) suffer from anaemia in varying degrees.

Under the Universal Immunization Programme, being implemented by the Government of India through the States, vaccination is available to the children throughout the country for control of six vaccine-preventable diseases. Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, implemented by the Government of India through the States, anaemic children in the age group 1-5 years are given 100 tablets of Iron and Folic Acid (small). These drugs are supplied to the sub-centres as a part of the Drug Kit A.

As a part of the Immunization Strengthening Project, the RCH Outreach Scheme is being implemented to improve the delivery of immunization and other maternal and child health services in remote and comparatively weak 151 districts of various States.

Pilot project on Hepatitis immunization

†1964. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently introduced any pilot project on Hepatitis immunization;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the districts of Orissa included in this; and

(c) the fresh steps taken or the strategy formulated to implement the scheme in the backward districts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A Pilot Project for introduction of Hepatitis B in the Universal Immunization Programme has been introduced in slums of 15 cities and in 32 districts. During the pilot phases (2000-04) only those districts that have demonstrated a good performance of the immunization programme as determined by a proportion of at least 80% infants being fully immunized, have been included. Sundergarh district from Orissa has been included in the Project. Steps have been initiated to improve performance of the routine immunization activities in backward districts.

Trials of Yoga and Herbal medicines at higher altitudes

1965. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Yoga and Herbal medicines have been found to be helpful in staying fit at higher altitudes;

(b) whether defence authorities have conducted trials of these medicines; and

(c) if so, their reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A number of studies conducted by scientific team of Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences have shown that Composite Indian Herbal Preparations (CIHPs) are beneficial in the extreme altitude, cold area or in low intensity conflict situations. In order to evaluate acceptability and subjective efficacy of CIHP-II in extreme altitudes *i.e.* beyond about 5000 m a large scale trial on troops operating at these heights is in progress.